

The **13<sup>th</sup> Leonardo da Vinci Prize** award ceremony took place on September 25, 2024, in Nara, the first capital of Japan and the cradle of its history.

The Prize was awarded to Mr. Toichi Takenaka, Honorary Chairman of Takenaka Corporation and member of the 17<sup>th</sup> generation of the Takenaka family, by Mr. Shunichi Tokura, composer and Commissioner of the Japan Agency for Cultural Affairs, in the company of Ms. Naomi Kawase, a Japanese film director and screenwriter born in Nara, Mr. Alberto Marengi, President of the Hénokiens Association and Mr. François Saint Bris, President of the Château du Clos Lucé.



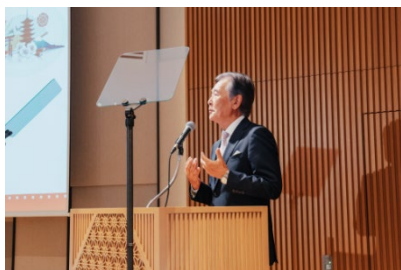
From left to right, Alberto Marengi, François Saint Bris, Toichi Takenaka, Naomi Kawase and Shunichi Tokura  
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Founded in 1899 in Kobe, Takenaka Corporation is a Japanese construction company. By 1610, Tobei Masataka Takenaka was already building temples and shrines. Takenaka has produced some of the most iconic buildings in Japan including the Tokyo Tower, the Nippon Budokan and the Tokyo Dome. The company is currently presided over by Toichi Takenaka. It operates in Japan and around the world, employs 14,000 people and posted consolidated sales of 10.2 billion euros by 2023.

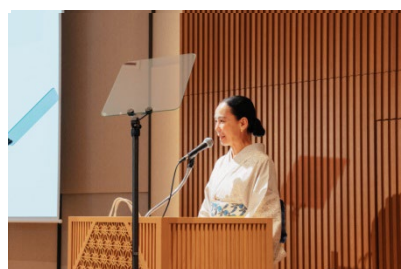


Abeno Harukas & Park, Osaka

in



The 13<sup>th</sup> Leonardo da Vinci Prize award ceremony was opened by Shunichi Tokura, composer and Commissioner of the Japan Agency for Cultural Affairs, attached to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. In his speech, he emphasized that art and culture can serve as tools to unite people from all over the world. He drew a link between the dissemination of art and culture, on the one hand, and ancient family societies, on the other, in the image of family businesses which, like the Henokiens, carry the heritage of a tradition and a history. Shunichi Tokura congratulated the members of the Henokiens, the Château du Clos Lucé and Takenaka Corporation, on their constant efforts to uphold their traditions, and wished them long life.



The organizers of the Leonardo da Vinci prize wanted to take the opportunity of the presentation of this prestigious prize in the city of Nara to honour Naomi Kawase, a world-renowned filmmaker from Nara, where she was born and grew up. Naomi Kawase, the director, has consistently pursued « reality », striving to transcend the boundaries between documentary and fiction. In 1997, she became the youngest recipient of the Caméra d'Or at the 50th Cannes Film Festival for her feature film « Suzaku ». A decade later, she won the Grand Prix at the 60th Cannes Film Festival for « Laforêt de Mogari ». In 2020, she served as the official film director for the Tokyo Olympic Games. In 2021, she was appointed as the first Japanese woman UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural and Creative Industries. Additionally, in 2022, she launched the « Grand voyage with Africa » project to strengthen the role of female directors in the African film industry. Naomi Kawase concluded her speech by indicating « that she is producing the pavilion for the World Expo to be held in Osaka in 2025, in collaboration with Takenaka Corporation, whom she would like to thank for the trust the company has placed in her and congratulate them for being the winner of the 13th Leonardo da Vinci Prize »



Alberto Marengi, President of the Henokiens, explained the choice of Takenaka as the winner of the 2024 Prize: "The Leonardo da Vinci Prize, founded by the Henokiens and the Château du Clos Lucé, reflects the idea that it is possible to embark on or continue an entrepreneurial adventure, while at the same time bringing something extra to the world around us". He reiterated the reasons why Takenaka Corporation deserved this trophy, and concluded by expressing his confidence that this 13<sup>th</sup> winner, with all his qualities, values and entrepreneurial vision, would enrich the list of winning companies for this award.

François Saint Bris, President of the Château du Clos Lucé commented: “The Leonardo da Vinci Prize rewards a family business for its exceptional ability to pass on to future generations a set of cultural values and know-how that constitute an intangible and living heritage, an essential guarantee of success and longevity. He drew a link “between Leonardo da Vinci's research into major urban and civil infrastructure projects, and his work as an architect in France and Italy, and the concrete technical and sustainable development solutions that Takenaka implements worldwide in ways that respect nature and the environment”. For the president of the Clos Lucé, “Takenaka Corporation, through its history and that of its leaders over 125 years, has perfectly illustrated the vision, commitments and loyalty of a family, in the service of a tradition, a profession and a territory, while driving innovation and ultimately achieving global success”. He concluded his speech with the following words: “Your commitment alone sums up the philosophy, culture and soul of your family-owned business. You have, Mr. Toichi Takenaka, clearly committed your company to a socially responsible approach with a holistic vision of the future for the next generations, in helping to build a better world. This Leonardo da Vinci Prize, awarded to your group, is in recognition of the exemplary role of all family businesses in Japan and of your tremendous human adventure as entrepreneurs for the past 125 years”.



Toichi Takenaka, Honorary Chairman of Takenaka Corporation, said “he was moved and honoured to receive the Leonardo da Vinci Prize”. He pointed out that “his family's activities began in 1610 with the construction of temples and shrines, and have evolved over the centuries, notably with the creation in 1899 of the Takenaka Corporation, which is awarded today, and the construction of some of Japan's most emblematic buildings”. He went on saying that “Takenaka

Corporation has based its operations on the ‘Kaizen’ philosophy, a way of thinking and a working method handed down from generation to generation, founded on continuous improvement and values shared by all, such as discipline, honesty, kindness, open-mindedness, responsibility, stability and reliability”. For Toichi Takenaka “these values, which are expressed and implemented through the pursuit of quality, safety in the workplace, respect for and protection of the environment, the company's code of conduct and its human rights policy, have certainly contributed to convincing the Henokiens Association and the Château du Clos Lucé to select his family business to receive the prestigious Leonardo da Vinci award today” for which he expressed his warmest thanks.





### **The trophy of the Leonardo da Vinci Prize**

The trophy, designed by the jeweller Mellerio, is inspired by the flying helix invented by Leonardo da Vinci. It embodies the laudable values of superiority, advancement and vision that the “Leonardo da Vinci Prize” was created for to recognize, promote and reward.